



Terry Tamminen
Agency Secretary

California Environmental Protection Agency

Air Resources Board • Department of Pesticide Regulation • Department of Toxic Substances Control
Integrated Waste Management Board • Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
State Water Resources Control Board • Regional Water Quality Control Boards



Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Interested Parties

FROM: Tam Doduc *Tam Doduc*
Deputy Secretary for Environmental Quality
California Environmental Protection Agency

DATE: May 12, 2004

SUBJECT: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE (EJ) ACTION PLAN

I am pleased to announce the release of the Environmental Justice Program's (EJ Program) draft EJ Action Plan to advance the priorities identified by Secretary Tamminen in his April 23, 2004, memorandum. In his memorandum, Secretary Tamminen announced that the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice will meet to discuss recommendations for an intra-agency environmental justice strategy. The Secretary also noted that completing the strategy is one of several activities Cal/EPA and our boards, departments and office (BDOs) will take toward ensuring environmental justice for all Californians. He also specifically mentioned four priorities: precautionary approaches; cumulative health impacts; community-capacity building; and tools for public participation and communication.

Secretary Tamminen, recognizing it may take some time to complete the formal, long-term strategic planning process, has directed the EJ Program staff to initiate actions, in the interim, to advance his four environmental justice priorities. The Secretary's leadership in this matter is consistent with Cal/EPA's overall EJ responsibilities under the law (Public Resources Code Section 71110). Thus, we are initiating a two-pathway approach toward advance environmental justice at Cal/EPA (Attachment 1). The first pathway is the formal, long-term strategic planning process mandated by statute; it includes the development of the intra-agency environmental justice strategy and the review of Cal/EPA programs, policies and activities to identify and address any gaps that may impede the achievement of environmental justice. The second pathway is the short-term, action-focused process (EJ Action Plan) to advance priorities in the interim of completing the long-term strategic planning process. These priorities will provide the foundation for Cal/EPA's EJ Program, establishing the framework for integrating key environmental justice concepts into our regulatory functions.

The attached draft document (Attachment 2) outlines the EJ Program staff's proposal for a short-term, action-focused plan to advance the Secretary's priorities. Given the complexity of issues such as precautionary application and cumulative impacts, we believe implementation should be approached in a deliberative and focused manner, developing the initial tools for systemic institutionalization of environmental justice within Cal/EPA. The interim activities in the EJ Action Plan will culminate in December 2006, when these activities will merge with the implementation of the BDO-specific strategies and workplans derived from the formal, long-term strategic planning process.

The EJ Program staff will conduct a public workshop to discuss the draft EJ Action Plan and obtain public input on the activities proposed. The Staff EJ Action Plan Workshop will be held on Monday, June 28, 2004, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., in the Coastal Hearing Room (2nd Floor) of the Cal/EPA Headquarters Building, located at 1001 "I" Street, Sacramento, California. Written and oral comments are welcome. A live Internet audio webcast of the staff workshop will be available at www.calepa.ca.gov/broadcast/.

Cal/EPA is making great strides toward ensuring that all Californians obtain equal and full protection, fair treatment, and full access to a clean, healthy environment. I hope you will be able to attend the staff public workshop on June 28, 2004, and share your thoughts on the short-term, action-focused process (EJ Action Plan) for Cal/EPA's EJ Program. Should you have any questions, please contact me at (916) 445-1399, or Ms. Malinda Hall, Special Assistant for Environmental Justice, at (916) 445-9480.

Attachments